Introducing Green Seeded Fordhook Bush Lima Bean

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Green Seeded Fordhook lima bean (tested under U.S. 861), which is resistant to downy mildew strain A, was released to lima bean seedsmen in the spring of 1966. This is the first green-seeded Fordhook variety released to the trade.

Parents. The parents of Green Seeded Fordhook are P.I. 164155, Early Thorogreen, Concentrated Fordhook, and Fordhook 242. Resistance to downy mildew strain A was contributed by P.I. 164155, a speckled-seeded pole lima bean from India; Early Thorogreen, the green cotyledons and dark-green leaves; Concentrated Fordhook, the concentrated pod set, compact plant and short racemes; and Fordhook 242 contributed heat resistance. Seed size was obtained by backcrossing to Fordhook 242 five times before pure lining was started.

Plant habit. The plants of Green Seeded Fordhook are compact, a few inches shorter and not as bushy as Fordhook 242, being about 13 to 16 inches tall with a spread of 18-20 inches. The racemes protrude slightly above the foliage and are shorter than those of Fordhook 242. A concentrated set of pods are produced in the crown of the plant that reach prime marketable condition 4-6 days later than Fordhook 242.

Yield. Under favorable growing conditions in the Middle Atlantic States when downy mildew is absent, Green Seeded Fordhook will usually yield about 10% less than Fordhook 242, but when downy mildew is present, it will outyield it by 30 to 60%.

Other characters. The new variety vines as satisfactorily as does Fordhook 242. The beans, which are slightly smaller than Fordhook 242, remain in a succulent condition in the field 5-8 days longer than Fordhook 242, which is a very desirable characteristic.

Amount of seed. In 1966 seedsmen produced about 18,000 pounds of seed of Green Seeded Fordhook. The variety will be further increased in 1967 and only a limited amount will be available for processor trials.

Bean Disease and Insect Survey in El Salvador

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Dr. Floyd F. Smith, U.S.D.A. Entomologist, and myself revisited El Salvador in July, 1966, to review the cooperative AID bean project which was organized in April, 1964, between El Salvador and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Excellent progress is being made by the Salvadorans in the development of disease-resistant black- and red-seeded types. The first high-yielding, multiple disease-resistant, black-seeded pole bean type (resistant